

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

Kingdom of Scotland:

THAT

Both Houses of Parliament may sit in
freedome for settling of Religion according
to the Covenant.

THAT

King Charls the Second

(Upon just satisfaction given)

*May be admitted to the Government of these
Kingdomes.*

together with their Protestation against all pro-
ceedings to the contrary.

*A Paper put in by the Commissioners of Scotland,
concerning the last VOTES of the
House of COMMONS.*

Right Honourable,

WE are informed that by order from both Houses the King is secured in *Caresbrook* Castle, and We have seen some printed Votes of the House of Commons to this effect: That they will make no further addressees or applications to the King; That no applications or addressees be made to the King by any person whatsoever without the leave and approbation of the Houses: That all persons whatsoever which shall make breach of this Order, shall incur the penalty of high Treason: That they will receive no more any Messages from the King, and do injoyne that no person whatsoever presume to receive or bring any Message from the King to either or both Houses of Parliament, or to any other person. By which, as his Majestie is deprived of all comforts of freedom; so it gives us occasion to ask, Whether it be intended, that it shall extend to his Majesties Subjects of *Scotland*, to debar such as are warranted by the Parliament of *Scotland* (or others having their authority) from free access to, or intercourse with the King; or that His Majestie shall be hindered from (and so made incapable of) the exercise of any act of Government in relation to the affairs of that Kingdom: to the end we may be enabled from the Answer of the Houses to give an account upon our return to *Scotland*, of His Majesties condition, and the discharge of our trust to the Committee of Estates and Parliament there, which is to meet the sixth of March next; And waiting your speedy Answer, we rest

Your humble Servants;

*Worcester-House,
Jan. 6. 1648.*

LOWDOUN. LAUDERDALE.

CHARLES ERSKIN.

*For the Right Honourable the
Speaker of the House of
Peers pro tempore.*

HUGH KENNEDY.

ROB. BARCLAY.

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

Kingdom of Scotland:

THAT

both Houses of Parliament may sit in
freedome for settling of Religion according
to the Covenant.

THAT

King Charls the Second

(Upon just satisfaction given)

may be admitted to the Government of these
Kingdomes.

together with their Protestation against all pro-
ceedings to the contrary.



The desires of the Commissioners of the Kingdome of Scotland.

IN the yeare 1642. and afterwards in the year 1643. when the Popish, Prelaticall, and Malignant party did grow prevalent in this Kingdome, the honourable Houses of Parliament did communicate severall Declarations and Papers to the Kingdome of Scotland, thereby to inform their judgments of the state of the differences here, and to gain their assistance, and invite their forces to come into this Kingdom; in which Declarations and other Papers they affirm and declare, That the Army of the Houses of Parliament was raised for maintenance of the true Religion, the Kings Person, Honour, and Estate, Priviledges of Parliament, Rights and Liberties of Subjects, and for the prevention of the alteration of Religion; that their Enemies design was to corrupt and alter Religion throughout the whole Island, and that they begun with Scotland, knowing well, that the same fate attended both Kingdomes; that they have only inverted the manner of their proceeding, conceiving it an easier way to destroy them, if they may first prevail over the Parliament & Kingdom of England; that whensoever Religion is subverted or changed in the one Kingdome it will easily be accomplished in the other, Religion being the band and foundation of the happinesse of both; that the corruptions take root in England will quickly spread their venome and infection to their neighbour Church of Scotland. They declare, the true state of the quarrell to be Religion, in reformation whereof, they are so forward and zealous, there is nothing expressed in Scotlands former or latter Declarations which they have not seriously indeavoured to effect. They earnestly intreat the Generall Assembly to further and redouble the assistance desired by both Houses from the Kingdome of Scotland upon this ground and motive, that thereby they shall do great service to God, and great honour may redound to themselves, in becoming the instruments of a glorious Reformation, not only throughout this Island, but from

Declar. & ac-
count to all
the world,
Aug. 1642.

English Com-
missioners,
Aug. 1643.

Declar. Sept.
1642. in an-
swer to the
Scots Declar.

thence possibly to be spread to other Churches, oppressed under the Antichristian bondage and tyranny of the Popish and Prelaticall Faction. They commend the prudence and faithfulness of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in propounding those things which may conduce to a more close and firm Union of the two Churches and Nations of England and Scotland, in preserving and maintaining the truth & purity of the Reformed Religion, not only against Popery, but all superstitious Sects and Innovations whatsoever; And declare, that the Houses of Parliament have ever made the Reformation of Church-Government and Discipline their chiefest aim, though they have been frequently interrupted, and powerfully opposed in the prosecution and accomplishment of it: and however they continue still in the storm and conflict, yet they take the Peace, Liberty and preservation, which God hath afforded Scotland, as a pledge of the like mercy intended to them in his good time, hoping that God will perfect their designs, and indeavours of a full Reformation in all things pertaining to Religion, and professe their earnest desires for unity of Religion in all substantiall parts of Doctrine, Worship and Discipline, that both Kingdomes might be more strictly united, and enjoy the advantages of His Majesties more easie safe, and comfortable Government, the people a more free communion in all holy exercises and duties of Worship, and that there might be a more constant security of Religion against the bloody practises of Papists, and deceitfull Errours of Sectaries. They remonstrate, that it is far from their purpose or desire to let loose the golden reines of Discipline and Government of the Church, to leave private persons, or particular Congregations to take up what forme of divine Service they please; but do hold it requisite, that there should be throughout the whole Realm, a conformity to that Order which the Laws injoyns, according to the Word of God. They protest in the presence of the all-seeing Deity, that the services which they have been desirous to perform to their Sovereigne Lord and King, and to this Church and State, in providing for the publike peace and prosperity of his Majesty, and all his Realmes, to have been and still to be the only end of their counsell and indeavours, wherein they have resolved to continue freed and enlarged from all private aimes, personall

Remonstrance
Decem. 1641.

May 1642

resp

respects or passions whatsoever; they oft mention their Protestation taken by every Member of both Houses, promising in the presence of Almighty God, to defend his Majesty, and disclaime the having any purpose to offer the least violence to his person, which hath and ever shall be dear unto them; they declare, that they expect the help and assistance of Scotland in defence of the Cause, which if the Popish party prevaile, must needs either involve them in that alteration of Religion, which will be made here, or ingage them in a war against this Kingdom, to defend their own Religion and Liberty; and they professe before the ever living God, the safety of Religion, Laws, and Liberties in this, and all other his Majesties Dominions, to be the chief end of all their Councells and resolutions without any intention or desire to hurt or injure his Majesty, either in his person, or in his just power. That they rest assured, both God and man will abhor and abhominat that monstrous and injurious charge laid upon the Representative Body of this Kingdome, of designing the ruina not only of his Majesties Person, but of Monarchy it selfe, and appeal to all the world whether worse words than these can be given them.

These Declarations and solemne Ingagements were communicated to the Kingdome of Scotland, before they did joyn in the War with the Houses of Parliament, and also both Kingdomes entred into a solemn League and Covenant for Reformation and defence of Religion, for Uniformity in one Confession of Faith, forme of Church-Government, Directory for Worship, and Catechising, for extirpation of Popery, Prelacy, Superstition, Heresie, Schisme, profanenesse, and whatsoever shall be found contrary to sound Doctrine, and the power of godlinesse, for preservation of the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, and Liberties of the Subject, for the honor and happinesse of the King, and his posterity, and the peace and safety of these Kingdomes

In the year 1646. after the power and strength of the Enemy was broken, the House of Commons did upon the 17. of April, publish a Declaration (which they likewise caused set up and affix in every Parish Church) wherein they vindicate themselves from severall misconstructions and mis-representations of their proceedings; as that they should have any intention

Declar.
Octob. 1642.
in answer to
the Kings,
concerning
Keinton Battell.

Declar. & Protest to all the world. 1642.

Declar. Novemb. 1642.

Declar. of the H. of Commons 1646.

tention or desire to make use of the great successe God had given them, contrary to their former professions; or to exceed or swerve from their first aims and principles, in the undertaking this Warr, and to recede from the solemn League and Covenant, and Treaties betwixt the Kingdomes, or to prolong these uncomfortable troubles and bleeding distractions in order to alter the fundamentall constitution and frame of the Kingdom; and to leave all Government in the Church, loose and unsetled; and themselves to exercise the same arbitrary power, over the persons and Estates of the Subjects, which the present Parliament had thought fit to abolish, by taking away the Star-Chamber, high Commission, and other Arbitrary Courts, and the exorbitant power of the Councell Table. And further they declare, that their true and reall intentions are, and their endeavours shall be, to settle Religion in the purity thereof according to the Covenant, and to maintain the ancient and fundamentall Constitution and Government of the Kingdom by King, Lords and Commons.

In November 1647. when a Petition was presented to the House of Commons, styling them the Supreme Authority of the Nation, together with a printed Paper annexed, entituled *An Agreement of the People for a firme and present Peace upon grounds of Common Right*, (which Agreement, as we have found upon perusall of both, is the same for substance with the *Agreement* lately published) the House of Commons did declare, that the matters contained in these Papers, were destructive to the being of Parliaments, and to the fundamentall Government of the Kingdom: And appointed a Letter to be written to the General to examine the proceeding of that business in the Army, and return an accompt thereof to the House. And when another Petition directed to the Supreme Authority of England, the Commons in England assembled was presented the 23. of the same Moneth, they voted the Petition a seditious and contemptuous avowing and prosecution of the former Petition and Paper annexed, styled an *Agreement of the People*, formerly adjudged to be destructive to the being of Parliaments and fundamentall Government of the Kingdom. And another Letter was appointed to be sent to the Generall to take notice of his proceedings in the execution of a mutinous person, (who was an abettor

that *Agreement*) at the rendezvous neer Ware, and to give him thanks for it, and desire him to prosecute the examinations of that businesse to the bottome, and to bring such guilty persons as he shal think fit to condigne and exemplary punishment; All which Declarations, Protestations, Oaths, Covenants and solemn Engagements; notwithstanding, we find our great grief, wonder and astonishment, that contrary to the dissent and Protestation of the Kingdom of Scotland, his Majesty is removed out of this life, by a violent death; That Orders are published in Print entituled, Acts of Parliament, prohibiting the proclaiming of the Prince of *Wales* King of these Kingdoms. That the Commons which now sit at Westminster (after many Members of that House, have been imprisioned, secluded by force, or necessitated to withdraw, because they cannot act as in a free Parliament) have voted away the singly Office, and the House of Lords, and claim the authority of a Parliament; and under colour thereof the power of recalling all Oaths of Allegiance or obedience whatsoever, even without exception of the solemn League and Covenant, from which the Conscience cannot be absolved by all the powers on earth. We see likewise strong endeavours used, and resolutions taken to maintain a licentious liberty and ungodly toleration in matters of Religion (as appeareth by a Paper lately published commonly called, *an Agreement of the People*) a Bill which upon the 26. of January last, we did present a Testimony from the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly of the Church of Scotland, approved of by the Estates of Parliament of that Kingdom.

If the honourable Houses of the Parliament of England who made the Declaration and Engagements aforesaid had been permitted to sit and act with Freedom; we know there would have been no such proceedings as we have already seen, nor need we to fear such dangerous evils and strange alterations, as are now carried on by will and power. We may confidently say they would have been more mindfull of their many Declarations, and the solemn League and Covenant; And more ready to hearken to the advice of their Brethren of Scotland, than however no regard hath been had by those who now rule, that we have formerly said; and so we have small hopes that any great notice shall be taken of what we shall further say;

say; yet in pursuance of the instructions we have received from the Parliament of Scotland; We hold it our duty to declare, that there may be no toleration of Idolatry, Popery, Prelacie, Heresie, Schisme or Prophanenesse; that there may be no change of the fundamentall Constitution and Government of this Kingdom, by King, Lords and Commons, that there may be nothing done which may wrong King *Charles* the Second, in his Succession, as righteous Heire of the Crown of these Kingdoms, but that by the free Councells of both Houses of Parliament, Reformation of and uniformity in Religion may be settled according to the Covenant; and particularly that Presbyteriall Government, the Confession of Faith, directory for worship and Catechisme may be established, that the just right and Title of King *Charles* the Second, to the Crowns of these Kingdoms may be acknowledged, and upon just satisfaction given to both Kingdoms, he may be received and admitted to the exercise of his Government. And, if notwithstanding all our earnest desires and endeavours to the contrary, the Commons now sitting at Westminster shall proceed therwise in all or any of the particulars aforesaid; We hereby in the name of the Parliament and Kingdom of Scotland dissent from the same, and solemnly protest, that they may be free before God and man, of all the guiltinesse, evill confusions, miseries and calamities that may follow thereon to these distracted Kingdomes.

24. Feb. 1648.

Lothian.

Jo. Christie.

William Glendonys.

ciw
o d
Pr
ay
me
the
e S
wn
lou
digi
ula
di
at
ro
ust
nd
rwi
ont
ced
Ve
Sc
t t
ev
are

6.